

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

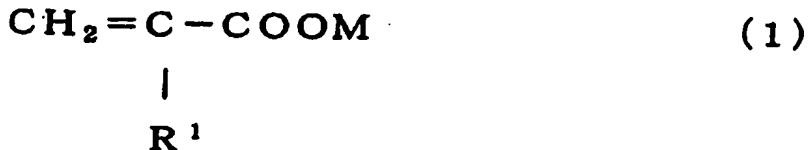
1-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A cement dispersant comprising a water-soluble amphoteric copolymer, or a partly or a fully neutralized salt thereof, the copolymer being formed by copolymerizing a monomer mixture containing as a main monomer component, at least one compound (compound A) obtained by addition of 0 to 8 moles of an alkylene oxide having 2 to 4 carbon atoms with respect to one equivalent of amino residues of a polyamide polyamine obtained by condensation of 1.0 mole of a polyalkylene polyamine, 0.5 to 0.95 mole of a dibasic acid or an ester of the dibasic acid with a lower alcohol having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and 0.05 to 0.70 moles of acrylic acid or methacrylic acid, or an ester of acrylic acid or methacrylic acid with a lower alcohol having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; wherein when the number of molecules of the dibasic acid or the ester of dibasic acid with a lower alcohol having 1 to 4 carbon atoms is represented by x, and the number of molecules of acrylic acid or methacrylic acid, or the ester of acrylic acid or methacrylic acid with a lower alcohol having 1 to 4 carbon atoms is represented by y with respect to 1 molecule of the polyalkylene polyamine, conditions of the following equation:

$$0.6 < y/(1-x) < 1.4$$

are satisfied:

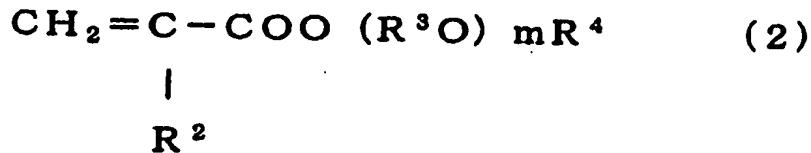
at least one compound (compound B) represented by general formula (1)



wherein R^1 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, and M represents a hydrogen atom,

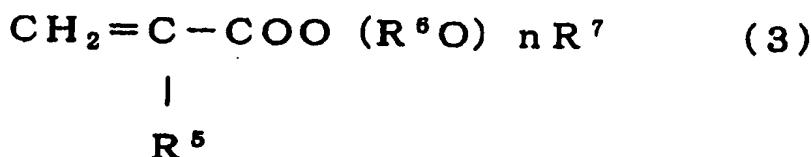
an alkali metal, an alkali earth metal, an ammonium group, or an alkanolammonium;

at least one compound (compound C) represented by general formula (2)



wherein R^2 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, R^3 represents an alkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, R^4 represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and m represents the number of addition molecules of a polyalkylene glycol and is an integer of 1 to 35; and

at least one compound (compound D) represented by general formula (3)



wherein R^5 represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, R^6 represents an alkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, R^7 represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and n represents the number of addition molecules of a polyalkylene glycol and is an integer of 40 to 100,

wherein, when the total of the compounds A to D is set to be 100 percent by weight, the water-soluble amphoteric copolymer is obtained by copolymerizing 5 to 25 percent by weight of the compound A, 5 to 30 percent by weight of the compound B, 5 to 40 percent by weight of the compound C, and 20 to 80 percent by weight of the compound D.

D-compound D and

the cement dispersant has high water reducing effect, is excellent in slump flow retention, has rapid strength development and decreases high concrete paste viscosity in a region having a low water/binder ratio.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A concrete admixture for mortar and concrete, comprising a mixture which contains the cement dispersant according to Claim 8 and at least one additive for mortar and concrete selected from the group consisting of a cement dispersant different from said cement dispersant, a defoaming agent, and an air-entraining agent.

11. (Previously Presented) A concrete composition comprising the cement dispersant according to Claim 8.

12. (Previously Presented) A concrete composition comprising the concrete admixture for mortar and concrete according to Claim 10.

13. (Currently Amended) The concrete composition according to Claim 11, wherein the concrete composition is ~~used for an~~ ultrahigh performance concrete.

14-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) The concrete composition according to Claim 12, wherein the concrete composition is ~~used for an~~ ultrahigh performance concrete.